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10/009,385

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EXAMINER

AUSTIN, SHELTON W

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/009,385	Applicant(s) STIEGLER ET AL.	
	Examiner Shelton Austin	Art Unit 2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 May 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 May 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In response to applicant's argument (page 15, paragraph 2) that "the combined teachings of Shaunfield and Ueki fails to disclose a number of features of claim 1" including "a first subscriber configured as a data source that transmits compressed audio and video data onto the ring network" and "a fourth subscriber that includes (i) a bit stream decoder that decodes the compressed audio and video data and provides decompressed audio and video data;" applicant should note that it is inherent that Shaunfield teaches compressed audio data along with the compressed video data. In col. 6, lines 15-20, Shaunfield teaches "a video module 62 configured for encoding and compressing is provided for receiving the NTSC video data from the respective cameras 10, compressing the data and allowing the compressed video data to be inserted into a specified VT channel of the SONET frame." The NTSC is the National TV Standards Committee that developed the NTSC color television standard for color television signal transmission of video and audio data. According to Flohr et al. (US 5,534,914), "As is well known, for NTSC standards, the video portion lies within a frequency range of 0 to 4.75 MHz whereas the audio portion lies within a frequency band of 0 to 15 KHz (col. 2, lines 23-26)." For NTSC standards, the highest 15 kHz of each 6 MHz NTSC channel contains the audio signal, thus it is inherent that when the video cameras (Fig. 1—10)

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provide the full motion NTSC video, they are in fact providing audio data along with the video data.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shaunfield (US 5,867,484) in view of Ueki (US 6,310,848).

Regarding claims 1, 9 and 16, Shaunfield teaches a local network having a ring network configuration with a plurality of subscribers each connected within the ring network by a data line to transmit and receive data therebetween (Fig. 2; col. 5, lines 41-46), the local network comprising:

a first subscriber configured as a data source that transmits compressed audio and video data onto the ring network (Fig. 2—53; col. 6, lines 15-20—see arguments above in regard to audio data);

a third subscriber that receives decompressed video data (Fig. 2—monitors 38),

a fourth subscriber (Fig. 2—50) that includes

a bit stream decoder that decodes the compressed audio and video data and provides decompressed audio and video data (col. 4, lines 40-44; col. 7, lines 8-11—see arguments above in regard to audio data); and

a control unit (Fig. 2—44) that controls the transmission of the decompressed audio data signal and the decompressed video data signal onto the ring network (col. 7, lines 19-22).

The control node of Shaunfield contains a demultiplexer that is capable of separating multiplexed signals, such as audio and video, but fails to specifically teach a separation stage that receives the decompressed audio and video data and separates the decompressed audio and video data to provide the decompressed audio data signal and the decompressed video data signal. Shaunfield also fails to explicitly teach a second subscriber that receives decompressed audio data.

In analogous art, Ueki teaches a second subscriber that receives decompressed audio data (Fig. 1—21) and a separation stage (Fig. 1—18) that receives the decompressed audio and video data and separates the decompressed audio and video data to provide the decompressed audio data signal and the decompressed video data signal (col. 6, lines 61-67—a recording/reproducing apparatus that includes a decompressing circuit with an A/V decoder for decompressing the audio/video data and a separation circuit that separates the decompressed data into audio and video signals).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shaunfield by incorporating a second subscriber that receives decompressed audio data and a separation stage that receives the decompressed audio and video data and separates the decompressed audio and video data to provide the decompressed audio data signal and the decompressed video data signal, as taught by Ueki, in order to supply the video data to a display device, i.e. a monitor, and the audio data to a audio reproducing device, i.e. a speaker (Ueki: col. 6, line 64-col. 7, line 4).

Regarding claim 2, Ueki teaches where the second subscriber comprises a data sink (Fig. 1—speaker 21).

Regarding claim 3, Shaunfield teaches where the third subscriber comprises a data sink (Fig. 2—monitor 38).

Regarding claim 4, Shaunfield teaches where the fourth subscriber comprises a data sink (Fig. 2—50; col. 4, lines 40-44; col. 7, lines 8-11; col. 7, lines 19-22).

Regarding claim 5, refer to the analysis of claims 2, 3 and 4.

Regarding claims 7, 8, 12 and 14, Shaunfield teaches a decoder that decompresses incoming signals, the signals being compressed according to JPEG, but fails to teach where the bit stream decoder comprises an MPEG-1 decoder or an MPEG-2 decoder.

In analogous art, Ueki teaches a decompressing circuit with a decoder for decompresses the incoming signal (col. 8, lines 31-33), where the signal is either an MPEG-2 signal or a MPEG-1 signal (col. 15, lines 25-27).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shaunfield by including an MPEG-1 decoder

or an MPEG-2 decoder, as taught by Ueki, in order to decompress signals that are of normal quality MPEG-1 type, or of high quality MPEG-2 type (Ueki: col. 15, lines 26-27).

Regarding claim 10, Shaunfield wherein the step of receiving, decompressing, processing and transmitting occur in the same data sink (col. 4, lines 40-46).

Regarding claim 13, Shaunfield teaches a decoder that decompresses incoming signals, but fails to teach that the decoder comprises an AC-3 decoder.

In analogous art, Ueki teaches a decompressing circuit with a decoder for decompresses the incoming signal (col. 8, lines 31-33), where the signal is compressed in an ac-3 format (col. 8, lines 49-51).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shaunfield by having a bit stream decoder that comprises an AC-3 decoder, as taught by Ueki, in order to decompress signals that are audio signals.

Regarding claim 15, Ueki teaches where the bit stream decoder comprises a video decoder and an audio decoder (col. 6, lines 44 & 61-64—a recording/reproducing apparatus that includes a decompressing circuit with an A/V decoder for decompressing the audio/video data).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shaunfield by including an audio and video

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decoder in the bit stream decoder for decompressing audio data and video data, as taught by Ueki, in order to supply the audio data to a audio reproducing device, e.g. a speaker, and the video data to a display device, e.g. a monitor (col. 6, line 64-col. 7, line 4).

4. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shaunfield in view of Ueki as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Stiegler et al. (US 5,940,398).

Regarding claim 6, Shaunfield teaches where third and fourth subscribers are separate from each other and connected within the ring network by the data line (Fig. 2). Ueki teaches a second subscriber (Fig. 1—21) that receives decompressed audio data, but fails to teach that the second subscriber is connected within the ring network.

In analogous art, Stiegler et al. ("Stiegler") teaches a speaker within a ring network (Fig. 3—35; col. 6, lines 14-23).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shaunfield and Ueki by including the second subscriber in the ring network, as taught by Stiegler, in order allow highly effective, fast and economical transmissions of source data between the network subscribers through optical fiber segments (Stiegler: col. 6, lines 51-54).

5. Claims 11 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bigham et al. (US 5,544,161) in view of Stiegler.

Regarding claims 11 and 17, Bigham et al. ("Bigham") teaches a local network (Fig. 8):

a first subscriber configured as a data source that transmits compressed audio and video data onto the network (216);

a second subscriber that receives the transmitted compressed audio and video data (827), where the second subscriber includes a separation stage that separates the compressed audio and video data to provide a compressed audio data signal and a compressed video data signal (col. 30, lines 45-54—Demultiplexer 827 separates the compressed audio/video data and transmits the separated video data to a video decoder and the separated audio data to an audio decoder), and a control unit that controls the transmission of the compressed audio data signal and the compressed video data signal onto the network (810; col. 30, lines 57-60);

a third subscriber that receives the compressed audio data signal (831), where the third subscriber includes an audio bit stream decoder that decodes the compressed audio data signal and provides decompressed audio data (col. 30, lines 54-55), and a unit that reproduces the decompressed audio data (Fig. 1—40); and

a fourth subscriber that receives the compressed video data signal (829), where the fourth subscriber includes a video audio bit stream decoder that decodes the compressed video data signal and provides decompressed video data (col. 30, lines 55-57), and a unit that reproduces the decompressed video data (Fig. 1—40).

Bigham, however, fails to teach the network having a ring network configuration with a plurality of subscribers each connected within the ring network by an optical data line to transmit and receive data therebetween.

In analogous art, Stiegler teaches a ring network comprising a speaker, a control and display unit, a radio receiver, etc. (Fig. 3—35; col. 6, lines 14-23) connected through a single optical data line.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bigham by including a ring network configuration with a plurality of subscribers each connected within the ring network by an optical data line to transmit and receive data therebetween, as taught by Stiegler, in order allow highly effective, fast and economical transmissions of source data between the network subscribers through optical fiber segments (Stiegler: col. 6, lines 51-54).

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shelton Austin whose telephone number is (571) 272-9385. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:00-5:30. The examiner can also be reached on Fridays from 9:00-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Grant, whose telephone number is (571) 272-7294, can be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30-5:00. The supervisor can also be reached on alternate Fridays from 9:00-4:00. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


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08/02/2007



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